England's Advocate, EUROPE'S MONITOR:

BEING

An Intreaty FOR HELP,

In Behalf of the Engliſh

Silk-Weavers

AND

Silk-Throſters

SHEWING

Their *Miſery*, and the *Cauſe* thereof; And what will only *Cure* both Them and the Evils *England*'s Trade groans under, and other Engliſh Manufacturers, from the like Deſolation.

In a LETTER to a Member of the Honourable Houſe of Commons.

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ENGLAND's Advocate, &c.

In a LETTER *to an Honourable Member of the House of Commons.*

SIR,

(1.) YOurs of the 20th past, acquaints me that you have lately received a dismal Account of the *Decay of Trade*; and particularly of the *Silk Manufacture of England*, and the *Deplorable Poverty* of the generality of Persons concerned in it, and related to it; which you say is so startling and amazing, that you cannot but call in question the Sincerity of the Relator, and the Truth of his Narration: And therefore you earnestly desire me, of whose Integrity and Experience, you are pleased to say, you make no doubt, that I wou'd deal fully and freely with you, in declaring what Truth there is in it; and if any, then what may be the Causes thereof, and what Remedies I think may be proper for it. Now though I question my own Ability for so great an Undertaking, yet I cannot altogether deny so good a Friend; and if I shou'd fail in giving you the expected Satisfaction, yet I will never deceive you with Falsehood, but

according to the best of my knowledge and skill, shall act impartially, as one who has only the Common and True Interest of his Countrey in his Eye: And herein I shall restrain my self chiefly to the *Weaving Trades* in and about the Cities of *London* and *Canterbury*, of which my many years Experience will not suffer me to be ignorant; not doubting but that *Norwich*, *Bristol*, and other Trading Places, will speak loudly for themselves, as having too just Cause: And I heartily thank both you and all those worthy Members, who you say are willing to Relieve us, but heartily sorry that it cannot be done at present; the state of Affairs being such at this instant time, that if the Petition of the *Weaver's Company* had been Received, it could have done them no present kindness. But since you tell me, That if I can give you convincing Satisfaction, you will communicate it to others, who may be capable of doing us some good Service ere long, I will adventure to try what can be done.

(2.) The *Weavers* and *Silk and Mohair Throsters of London*, are so very Numerous a Company, that according as they flourish or fail, most other *Trades* feel the good or ill Effects of it; and they are of two sorts, either the *Masters* or *Fabricators*, or else the *Workmen* and *Servants*, being far the greater Number, and in which are to be included multitudes of *Women* and *Children*

dren; for they are Trades which employ variety of hands, and enables even *Children*, at least in part, to get their Livelihood, to the great Relief, Ease and Comfort of their *poor Parents*. And here, if I cou'd without sighing remember the Blessings of Peace and good Management, I should tell you, That from the Restoration of King *Charles* the Second, to the beginning of the present Revolution, this profitable and necessary *Broad-Weaving Trade* was increased 19 parts in 20, to what it was before. And altho the Foundation of our Desolation, which was before (as 'tis said) by Br——y attain'd, began its Effects towards the end of that Kings Reign, and that vast quantities of *India* Wrought Silks were brought over, it was chiefly to the prejudice of the Woollen Manufacture, for then the better sort of Women scorn'd them, and they were mostly used instead of Serges, Tammies, and *Norwich* Stuffs: But that produc'd such dismal Effects, that the Growth of several Years Wooll lay to Moth-eat, till that happy and Ingenious Invention of both Silk and Worsted Crapes, gave new Life both to the Wooll and Silk Manufactory, (for Burying in Woollen would not do it) and rendered the *Indian* Silks and Stuffs contemptible to all sorts of People, and to the Advantage of all parts and places where it was setled; whereby great multitudes of other *Trades* and *People*, who had their de-

pendance thereon, prospered and lived well; many Fields were turned into Streets, and Houses Let, before they could be finished; and multitudes of Strangers were entertained, and had full Employment in the *Weaving-Trade*; *the Brewer*, *the Baker*, *the Butcher*, *the Victualler*, were well paid; and that I am sure could be no damage to the *Landlord*; and the Nation abounded with *Men and Money*, in which two things, with God's Blessing, the main *Strength* of a *Kingdom* consists.

(3.) But alas! we may now say with the Brazen Head, *Time Was*: For Now there is such an utter Decay of Trade, especially of the *Weaving Part*, and its Dependancies, that a *Master*, who formerly employed *Twenty*, *Thirty*, or more, cannot now employ *Four*, nor find them full work: The rest are put to miserable shifts, and at best they are forced to take up with *spare Diet*, and *the worst of Provisions*, and that many times *not very wholesome*; and to purchase *This*, they are fain to strip their Houses, and sell the Furniture by degrees, till from one thing after another, it comes to the very *Bed* they lie on, and they are reduc'd to a wad of straw for their Lodging, and a few shavings for a necessary fire, to boyl a little Water-gruel, or a Beasts Liver; and when all is spent, then the upper Garments, if worth any thing, goe to the *Broker*, for a small pittance of Money, to

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get a little Recruits for Belly-Timber; and thus ſtarved inſide and outſide, they ſpin out a miſerable Life, faintly walking, all Tatter'd and Torn, more like *Ghoſts and Shadows* than *Living Men and Women*, till being able no longer to hold out againſt Weakneſs and Want, they drop into their Graves: And tho' the Weekly Bills may call it *Conſumptions*, *Convulſions*, or by other ſuch Artificial Names, yet if the *Searchers* wou'd ſpeak out, or your Worſhip wou'd ſummon a *Jury* of *Church-Wardens* and *Overſeers of the Poor*, from *Algate*, *Biſhopſgate*, *Cripple-gate*, *Shoreditch*, *Stepny*, S. *Georges*, and *Southwark*, with the Precincts and Hamlets thereunto belonging, I am confident they would bring in their Verdict, That no ſmall number of them dyed of a *Diſeaſe* in plain Engliſh called *Starving*. And this is the more to be lamented, becauſe it befalls the better and honeſter ſort of them: for thoſe, whoſe *modeſty* will not let them *beg*, nor *their honeſty* ſuffer them *to ſteal*, when they can find nothing to ſet their *Induſtry* at work, their *hearts* ſink, they hide their *heads* for grief and ſhame, and ſo pine away with want: And thus thoſe Men are loſt, who wou'd improve Trade, and be exceeding profitable to the Commonwealth.

(4.) To this you may add the Conſideration of the many Houſes which ſtand empty in theſe and ſuch-like Places, which formerly were crowded with two or three

Families: And as for many Houſes which are inhabited, they are ſuffered ſo to be, rather to prevent the heavy payment of three or four ſhillings Tax in the pound, falling on the Landlord, than for any hope of more Rent he hath from the Tenant: Nay, I know ſome who would gladly loſe their Houſes, would the grand Landlord accept and acquit them. Perhaps you will think it ſtrange, if I ſhould ſay, I know the Men that are Ruin'd and Undone, by having whole Ranges of Houſes given them, only for being become bound to pay ſome Ground-Rent, that was covenanted for before the Building; and yet of this kind, you may eaſily be inform'd of divers inſtances, in the *Tower-Hamlets*, and the *New Town*; and notwithſtanding all this Loſs and Deſolation, yet within a few years in thoſe places, they have been forced to double their Rates for the *Poor*; and when that would not do, then to add an Additional Rate of Six Months to the year; and ſome Pariſhes, that were hundreds of pounds before-hand ſome years ſince, are now run deep in debt, with endeavouring to ſupport their Poor, and to prevent this miſerable Poverty growing upon us; and all to no purpoſe; for never did the Poor ſwarm at that rate as now, and ſtill daily increaſe; ſo that no Man can have a ſpare Farthing to give away, but once in an hour he ſhall have three or four aſſaulting

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his houſe with doleful complaints to beg it, and things grow daily ſo from bad to worſe, that in a little time we may fear to ſee *begging and ſtealing* to become the *two* moſt *general Profeſſions or Employments* in the *Nation*; and if there be no remedy for theſe things, or none will be taken, we ſhall certainly ere long from the moſt *flouriſhing Kingdom* of *Europe*, become the moſt *deſpicable People* under the Cope of *Heaven*.

(5.) I fear I have ſurfeited you with Complaints; but that I may now afford you a handle, whereby you may do your Country ſome good ſervice, of which I know you ſo zealouſly deſirous, that you never ſpared any honeſt Pains which might tend to produce that Effect, I ſhall now lay before you, what I apprehend to be the *principal Cauſes* of this daily encreaſing *Poverty and Miſery*; and that conſideration in courſe will direct to the *Remedies*: But before I come to the ſtanding Cauſes among our ſelves; I ſhall take notice of one thing, which I take to be an accidental Cauſe, and yet a great preſent furtherance of this Miſchief, and that is the free Admiſſion of ſo many *French*, *Walloons*, and other *Foreigners* amongſt us: Not that I againſt all *Foreigners*, much leſs againſt the *Relief* of Men in *diſtreſs*, of which I am confident you will bear me witneſs; but I think our *Charity* to others might be ſo managed, as not to be *uncharitable* to our ſelves. For

many

many complain, that they enjoy ſeveral *Immunities and Priviledges* more than the *Natives* themſelves, which is grating, provoking, and uneaſie: And they alſo urge the large Contributions from time to time made to them, which I ſhould never grudge, but that I find this uſe to be made of them, by the help thereof to work under the *Heads* of their own *Party* at lower Rates, than the *Engliſh* could, at the rate Proviſions now are; and by this means they got the *Work* out of their *Hands*, and the *Bread* out of their *Mouths*: And ſo long as thoſe Contributions laſted, they did, and would hold it; but now they fail, I am informed that ſeveral of them think of tranſplanting themſelves into other Countries; and ſo doubtleſs will the *Engliſh* too, rather than ſtarve at home (but I fear *Europe* cannot afford them Relief) for Trade will run thither, where it meets with encouragement and ſits eaſie; and at this rate the *Nation* will be in danger to be much *diſpeopled* as well as *impoveriſhed*; which can bode no good, if not wiſely prevented.

(6.) But that we may come more cloſe to the matter; the Deſign of *Trade* is to ſupply our *want*, and encreaſe our *wealth*, and therefore ought to be managed to thoſe ends: But if it multiply our *Inconveniences*, or exhauſt our *Riches*, ſuch Trading is riding Poſt to ruine, and therefore a ſpeedy

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ſtop ought to be put to it: For this reaſon let Men talk what they pleaſe of a *free Trade, and leaving it uncircumſcribed*, they muſt at laſt allow it to be limited by ſuch Rules and Maximes, as may make it *beneficial* and not *hurtful* to a *Nation*; but to ſet them, ſo as to make them obligatory and effectual, belongs to Authority, where I leave them, and proceed to make good my Promiſe.

(7.) And here, I cannot but take notice of one miſtake, which multitudes of well-meaning Perſons make; for whereas it hath been wiſely provided, that our own Commodities ſhould be manufactured at home, many have thought, that by wearing *fine Engliſh Cloth*, they were the great *Conſumers* of *Engliſh VVool*, which is a great Errour: For it hath been proved more than once before the *Parliament*, that no Cloth of above 10 *s. per* Yard white, or 13 *s. per* Yard in mixt Colours, ſold at *Blackwell-Hall*, hath one Drachm of *Engliſh VVool* therein, unleſs by Accident, and ſo all the better ſort become only the Conſumers of the *Socove or Spaniſh VVool*; and by this means *Hair-Camblets*, *Prunello's*, *Callamanco's*, *Velvets*, *Silks*, and ſuch like wearing, hath been, and is much diſuſed, for the purchaſing the Materials, (whereof they were here made,) our own *Cloth-Manufactures* were in great quantities exported, and to which a great ſtop by that means is made; ſo that hereby a double

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Manufacture is discouraged, and a double Gain to the Nation lost: For he that wears a *Hair-camblet Coat or Cloak, or Prunello-gown*, or any sort of *Hair* or *Silk*, *Velvet* or *Shag*, is in the effect a more true *Consumer of English Wooll*, than he that wears *Cloth*; *Grograin*, or *Mohair Yarn*, of which the aforesaid Commodities are made, being generally the *Product* or *Exchange* of our *Courseſt English Woollen Cloth*, by which Vend the *Clothier* is encouraged; and the preparing the Yarn, which comes in for it, gives a great and comfortable Employment to vast Numbers of People in the several Manufactures thereof: And before this War, we had attained to that Perfection, as not only to serve our selves in Hair-Camblets, which before used to be sent us from *Brussels* and *Holland*, but had gained such a Preference, as to serve the wiseſt *Paris* and *French Merchants*, where and to other parts, we had a very profitable Trade, in the former times. I could not say less, to undeceive many, who did not understand how by this means the *Silk* and *Mohair-Yarn-Trade*, is much impaired, and *English Cloathing* it self damnified, which is one, tho' no great cause, of this *Deplorable Poverty*. Nor wou'd I be thought, by informing of this Mistake, to undervalue the home Consumption of our own Woollen Manufacture.

(8.) As to what you hint in relation to the *War*, the late ill State of our *Coin*, and the

the preſent *Dearneſs of Silk*, I am confident that they have had very little Influence in this matter; and that if the *publick good* of the Kingdom in general had been preferred before the particular and *private Intereſt* of a few ſelf-deſigning Perſons, the firſt and laſt of theſe had rather been to the Advantage of the Silk Manufactures both *Weavers and Throſters*, with all their Dependants, than to their Detriment. For ſetting aſide the *Act* prohibiting Silk coming but by long Sea in the Time of *War*, I am confident, that I can convince you and all reaſonable and unbyaſſed Men, that the *War* would have been greatly to our Advantage; and the Scarcity of Mony might have been ſupplied by Credit for that time, had it not been ruined by other means. The dearneſs of Silk, if it be ſo in all other parts, hurts the Trade no more than extream Cheapneſs would: But to inſiſt on theſe things, as I might, would ſwell my Diſcourſe beyond my deſign; and therefore I ſhall proceed with all poſſible Brevity to what I am confident is the bane of the *Silk Manufactures* in *England*, and in the conſequence of it, of the *Woollen* alſo.

(9.) The unreaſonable and indiſcreet Preference of *India Manufactures*, whereby ſo vaſt a *Manufactory* and Profit is carried from us thither, eſpecially of that of *India Silks and Stuffs*, hath almoſt wholly overthrown and unhinged this profitable and ne-

neceſſary *Trade* of *Silk throwing and weaving*, by which vaſt Multitudes of People of both Sexes young and old lately lived comfortably, and ſo did all its dependants. Firſt in the winding it raw, whereby Thouſands of Seamens Wives and Children, and other People many Miles round the City (who now ſtarve) earned their Bread, to perfect it for the *Throſter*; to ſpin which again afforded a good livelihood to thoſe that double the ſame to be thrown for the *Weavers* Uſe, after the *Dyers* have gained their livelihood by Dying it. *The Winders, Warpers, Quillers, Draw-Boys*, had good ſubſiſtance by their Attendance on Weavers, (beſides other Trades, as Harneſs-makers, Turners, Loom-makers, Reed-makers, *&c.*) twenty, thirty, or forty of which *Weavers* uſed to be employed by one *Fabricator*, which numbers many of them have now nothing to do, but are driven to this miſerable Choice, either to *beg, ſteal, or ſtarve*. And before this proſperous Trade was ruined, every Maſter according to his Stock and Credit, provided before-hand for a *Spring Trade*, and was certain of a Market in *February* or *March*, had he never ſo many hundred pounds worth of Goods by him; and the whole Summer following all hands working early and late were little enough to ſupply the *Mercers*; though many that had good foreſight, and large Stocks and Credit, would then be providing a freſh Stock

of Goods proper for *Winter Ware*, for which about *Michaelmas* Term they failed not to find ſale; and by this means the *whole Cloathing Trade* of *England* was upheld, (which now ſinks) The *Turky and Italian Merchants* ſending our Coth, Serges, Bays, Says, *&c.* to *Turky* and *Italy* for Silk to employ theſe numerous People, who lived upon and expended the Productions of our own Land; and whether the very Carriage and Return of their ſeveral Cargo's in our Coaſting Trade to ſupply them, be not of more advantage even to our *Engliſh Navigation*, than the *Eaſt-India Trade*, I leave to their Judgments, who ſhall conſider, that this laſt ſerves chiefly to deſtroy our moſt *skilful Seamen*, which their former Employments from *New-Caſtle*, *Cheſter*, and other parts, had made; it being too frequently obſerved, that ſcarce half the Ship's Crew comes ſafe again to *England*, that ſet out from thence for the Eaſt-*Indies*.

(1c.) This great *inconvenience*, or rather *miſchief*, was firſt brought on us about 30 years ſince by the *Eaſt-India Company's* ſending over ſeveral of our Engliſh *skilful Weavers*, *Dyers*, *and Pattern-drawers*, &c. to inſtruct the *Indians* in ſuch Methods as ſuited the *European Fancies*; before which time, all things they ſent were contemptible, and the *Ladies* thought them ſcarce good enough for their *Kitchin-Maids*; but

now

now ſo eſteem them, that our *Silk Manufactury* at home is on the brink of deſtruction, and *England* it ſelf will next feel it, and all *Europe* too, if they be no wiſer to prevent it, as I ſhall now endeavour to demonſtrate.

(11.) The *Advocates* for our *Eaſt-India Trade* are pleaſed at all times, to extol and magnifie *Merchandize* and *Navigation*, as the Foundation of our *Wealth* and *Proſperity*; and doubtleſs they are very likely to maintain it, who take the Courſe to leave us nothing in the end to *Merchandize* withall; for what better can be expected from them, who carry away our *Money*, and deſtroy our *Manufactures*? And therefore theſe eloquent Gentlemen ought to conſider, that a due *improvement* of our *own Productions* by Labour and Induſtry, was the *Foundation* of our *Merchandize*, and ſtill muſt *ſupport* it, or it will fail in time, as alſo our *Lands* will ſink in *value*, and the *Nation* be *diſpeopled*; and for this reaſon by great Miſtake was the *Eaſt-India Company* lately obliged to export yearly a 100000 *l*'s worth of our *Woollen Manufactures*, which impoſition proved as *unprofitable* to us, as it was *unnatural* in it ſelf: For they cannot ſell *Cloth* in thoſe Places, whence they bring thoſe ready wrought *Silks*, which deſtroy our *Manufactury* at home, but were forced to vend it at thoſe Markets where the *Turky Merchants* had otherwiſe ſent it,

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and ſo became a hindrance to their Trade, which is more profitable to us; and when they impoſed the wearing of *Woollen* on their *Souldiers* under Penalty of loſing their *Pay*, I am credibly inform'd, that they could never bring them to it, unleſs on *Pay-days*, and then not without grumbling, the heat of the Country making them unable to endure it. Now let it be conſidered, that the Management of our *Lands and Sheep* produceth that *VVool*, which after by the Labour and Induſtry of divers *Manufacturers* (too many to be particularly named) is wonderfully improved; and while they are doing that, wear our *courſer VVool* and *Leather*, ſpend our Butter, Cheeſe, Corn, by which many others are maintained at home, and by the Product of their labours Navigation maintained abroad: For their improvements in ſeveral Parts are in ſeveral Cargo's ſent to *Turky*, *Italy*, *Spain*, and other Parts, whereof part returns in *unwrought Silk*, and other neceſſary Commodities, part in *Silver* from *Cadiz*, which the *Eaſt-India Company* put a ſtop to, and ſend it away to the *great Mogul* to bring home thoſe Commodities, which if preferred, not only ruines all thoſe *Manufacturies* of *Wool*, but alſo the *Turky and Italian Trade*, which in return of thoſe Commodities, brought hither *Raw Silk*; and this they do by bringing over their vaſt Cargo's of ready *wrought Silk* from *India*, in

lieu of our good hard *Silver* and *Gold*, which is ſure to return to our uſe no more, than the Woollen wherein we bury our Dead. This done, their Cargo's are expos'd on their Stage at St. *Hellens*, where our Females are charm'd, and fall ſo deſperately in love with them, that no other form or manner of Silk than what they *laſt brought*, muſt be the *Standard* of our *Mode and Faſhion*; ſo that when our *London* and *Canterbury Weavers* againſt the Spring-trade, have provided many Thouſand pounds worth of *Luſtrings*, *Tabby's*, and other as good Silks as the World can afford, in comes an *Eaſt-India* Ship freight with *Dammask* and *Sattins*, which being expoſed on their Stage, makes the *Mode* for that Spring; and the *Engliſh Fabricators* muſt keep that years Goods, or ſell them to vaſt loſs, and then are conſtrained with vaſt Coſts and Charges to alter their *Faſhion* for the next year, when in comes more *Eaſt-India* Ships with Goods of quite another form, and all the *Weavers* are in the dirt again: And thus for ſeveral years have the *London* and *Canterbury Weavers* been diſappointed, and Numbers of them undone, to the utmoſt Degree of Poverty; and many of them not getting any Sale for their Goods thus provided, at ſo little as 25, or 30, or more *per Cent*, loſs, have left off, and fallen into the *worſted Weavers*; and I doubt not but that famous Corporation

and

and City of *Norwich*, has and will feel the ill Effects of it: For the *London Weavers* not being tyed to those Rules and Methods, which the *Norwich Weavers*, for the Credit of the Kingdom and themselves, had obliged their Members to, for making Goods free from Deceit, (as the *Colchester Bays-makers* do) have in part justled them out of their Trade, by being thus at their liberty: But now *Norwich* for its own preservation having taken off that restraint, (which otherwise had been commendably kept on) *Spittle-fields* will not be able to maintain that *Trade*, which at best here, is but a *starving* one, to the poor *Workmen*; and therefore *Norwich* having set her Members at liberty, *Spittle-fields* Workmen must in a short time beg, starve, or be kept by the Parish.

(12.) This is a sad, but true History of the *decay* and *misery* of the *weaving Trade*, which is partly caused by the self-endedness, and pernicious Trading of some particular Merchants; partly by the vain and fond, I am unwilling to say vitious Humour, of the Females. For the *Mercers* dare not buy any thing considerable, but what is *Indian*, or what he must pretend to be so; and who can blame him for dealing therein, when otherwise the *Draper*, as things stand, would deprive him of his Trade? And now they cannot but confess, that their great care is how to provide good store of Mony against

an *East-India* Sale; and if in the Intervals they ſpare any, it is to buy the *Labour* and *Pains* of the *Weaver* for little or nothing, and ſometimes part of the *Silk* into the bargain. And I aſſure you, Sir! it almoſt makes my Blood chill to think, that the beſt of our *Fabricator*'s buſineſs (that little they now do) is ſo to *counterfeit* the *Indians*, that the *Mercer* may vouch it for ſuch with confidence.

(13.) But this matter is accounted nothing with many; and they commonly ſay, That the *Silk Weaving and Throwing*, with all its Dependants, had better be deſtroyed, than the *East India Trade* obſtructed or Prejudic'd: *For* (ſay they) *though they do ſend great ſtore of* Money *away to purchaſe the* Indian Silks and Toys, *yet they bring great Profit to the Nation, by returning back Money from moſt other* European Countreys, *and ſo the Nation is by them enriched.* In anſwer hereto, though I have much to ſay againſt the Truth of this, yet at preſent I will not quarrel with any of their Importations or Exportations, as ſuch, let their Trade be as great as they can deſire; though I am ſure in the end it will prove much to the Prejudice of *Europe* in general, and more eſpecially to us; but that which I now complain of, is the home conſumption of thoſe Manufactures, which will inevitably deſtroy not only our *Silk*, but our *Woollen Manufactures:* And that I may commend you

you to a compleat Judge in this Caſe, Pray read the Eſſay upon the *Indian Trade*, whom I take to be the beſt *Advocate* for that *Company* this Age hath afforded, and I ſuppoſe he may have been as well paid for it: It is pity ſo fine a Pen ſhou'd be employ'd in ſo bad a Cauſe; but for his ingenious Confeſſion of that Truth, which if rightly conſidered gives it up, we may forgive him. And thus ſaith he, p. 12. *As to the East-India Trade in general, if all would by common Conſent agree to have no further dealing to thoſe Parts, this ſide of the* World *by ſuch Reſolution would certainly ſave a great and continual expence of Treaſure; for that* Europe *draws from thence nothing of ſolid Uſe, Materials to ſupply Luxury, and only periſhable Commodities, and ſends thither Gold and Silver, which is buried there, and never returns.* And then p. 13. concludes, *I cannot find what is become of the* 800 *Millions digg'd out of the Earth, unleſs* 150 *Millions of it be carry'd away and ſunk in the East Indies.* A very fair Confeſſion of the true matter of Fact! And who are the Fools? As for *Spain* and other Countries, who manufacture not what they uſe, they may with ſome colour of Reaſon be indifferent in their Preference; but for us to do it, and ſet the World an Example ſo to do, is no better than Folly, if not Madneſs; who for the love of *India Manufactured Silks, Tinder Calico's* and *Muſlins*, throw away our *Gold and Silver*, ne-

ver to be recovered, when we might have good *Cambrick* and *Lawns*, and other *German Linnen*, and *Raw Silk* to employ our People, in exchange for our *Woollen Manufactures*; which becauſe we will not, we loſe both our Trade and our Money, which we might keep at home, or ſend abroad to better purpoſe.

(15.) O but, ſays this and other *Eaſt-India* Advocates, *Money is but a Commodity, and Trade muſt not be circumſcribed but free*: That by their bringing *Eaſt-India* Silks and Stuffs cheap for our own uſe, we may find other Markets for our Manufactures abroad. But why then ſuch a buſtle and flouriſh at other Times, when contending for the Ballance of Trade with the *European Countries*? But I grant that *Gold* and *Silver* is but a *Commodity*, which we ought to be willing to part with, when there is a good cauſe for it: But then it ought to be conſider'd what kind of Commodity it is; it is the *Sinews* of *War*, the *Glory* of *Peace*, and the *Life* of *Trade*, without which, Workmen cannot well be employ'd; the more any *Nation* hath of it, the more *Wealthy* and more *Powerful* it is; the *leſs* they have, ſo much the more *mean* and *inconſiderable* they are; ſo that to let our *Money* go from us, is to part not only with our *Wealth*, but our *Strength*. Beſides, *Gold* and *Silver* is not a *Commodity* of *Engliſh Growth*; if we make the *Fleece* into Cloth, and ſend it away,

away, the Sheep affords us another Fleece the next year; but ſend our *Money* away, and none comes up here in the room of it: And when other Nations have it, they bid it welcome, and are unwilling to let it return again; and therefore the ſafeſt courſe is to make it ſtay at home, unleſs when our own real advantage, neceſſity, or ſafety requires the contrary; and therefore ſome have compared it to the Blood in the Body; or rather the Spirits in the Blood; waſting makes us languiſh, great exhauſting kills. But that you may more plainly ſee the difference, pray obſerve, that if *Money* be but a *Commodity*, ſo is *fine China Ware* alſo, and being we can do ſuch fine things with worſe Fools than our ſelves, ſuppoſe for once we ſhould ſend all our Contemptible Cupboards of *Plate*, with all our other *Gold* and *Silver* to the *Indies*, and have it returned in *Delicate China Ware*, either for *Uſe* or *Trade*, ſhould we not be monſtrouſly enrich'd? For Fancies ſake, I will relate a ſtory, which I long ſince receiv'd for Truth, when I little thought of having this occaſion to uſe it: The Lady of a Worſhipful Knight, Sir *R. K.* of *E*—— oblig'd him to make her a return of 100*l.* in this pretty Commodity, with which ſhe finely adorned her Cloſet, under the Window of which was an Out-houſe, and ſhe keeping a pretty Pug, and going abroad in her Coach without him, up skips the

Monkey from the Wall to the Top of the Out-house, and the Lady having left her Closet-Casement open, in he marcheth, and admiring how prettily it rang and tinkled, as he jumbled them together, he never left off the Frolick, till he brought it all to its Intrinsick Value. Sir, I shall leave the Application to your self; only I think I may say, That the *Consumers of Indian Silks* are much as profitable to the *Kingdom*, as *Pug* was to his *Lady*.

(16.) It's commonly said, *That far fetcht and dear bought, is good for Ladies*; nor do I envy them any *Finery*, provided it be not purchased with the *Ruine* of their *Country*: But when they shall consider that by these means their Husbands *Rents* must *fall*, the Useful and Profitable *Trades* of the Kingdom *fail*, and their *Countrey* be *Dispeopled* by Death, or necessitating the Inhabitants to flock to other Places, where they can get a Livelihood, and all this to *inrich* a far distant *Infidel Countrey*, by *impoverishing* our selves, I hope they will grow so wise and good humour'd, as to part with one Piece of Vanity, which is so pernicious.

(17.) And further, if this be not the effect of that *Devouring Trade*, how comes it to pass, that *Silver* is 5 *d. per* ounce more worth than *Money*, only to be sent to the *Indies* to be buried, and *Cadiz* and *Holland*, and all Places, dreined to obtain it on any Conditions, but that the *Nation* must be

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ruined to enrich a few Men by management of a *free Trade*, as they are ready always to call it, when we talk of any, tho' never ſo needful, Prohibiting of never ſo ſmall a Branch of it? But I think this *free Trade* to be a Contradiction, as matters were managed.

(18.) If you pleaſe throughly to conſider the Management of this *Eaſt-India Trade*, you will be forced to acknowledge, That had we not ſent *Indian Linnen* upon the *Scots*, to the great detriment of their *Scotch-Cloth-Trade*, (the principal Manufacture of that Kingdom) it is believed they never would have thought of an *Eaſt-India Company*, by which they hope to be even with us, by impoſing *Indian Toys* upon us by way of requital: And what detriment it will occaſion in the *Iriſh* Affair, ſmall time will diſcover. And when other parts of *Europe* (which have not yet taken up that courſe) ſhall warily inſpect what we have been, and are now doing; Will they not think of ſetting up the ſame *Trade*, and impoſe their freight of *Indian Goods* upon us, as we have done upon them? only I can hardly think, that any but our ſelves, will be ſo indiſcreet, to ſend their Money Abroad, to the deſtruction of their Gainful *Manufactures* at Home, unleſs pure Revenge tempt them to it; that the ſame Trick may not be always plaid upon them, but that in requital, they may Trick o-

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thers, as well as they have done them: and I verily believe, that a few years will bring it to this pass, and then we shall say, *Who would have thought it*? And when I consider, how many *Undone Weavers*, have set up *Ale-Houses*, till they have had little Trade, except to tipple one with another, till they have *broke themselves* again, and the *Brewer* into the bargain; it is to me an unlucky resemblance, of what the *European Trade* in time must come to, when it is one Kingdom with another, chiefly for *Indian Gewgaws*.

(19.) Nor can there be any doubt, but that the Great *Mogul* and his People, when they observe the mad Esteem we have for their Manufactures, will follow the *European* Examples, and advance their Prizes (as they have already done of late) and by laying on Great *Duties*, and Prohibiting *Raw Silk*, and *Cotton Wool* and *Yarn*, especially now they find they can have our Gold and Silver for it, ready Manufactured there; for the remedy of which, nothing but the Learned Doctors Observation before-cited, can give *Europe* an Effectual Cure: But would they agree together in an *European* Parliament, or Council, not to Consume, or fetch any *Indian Manufactures*; this would perfectly cure the Evils the *European Trades* groan under; for the Remedying of which, it may be obs erved, how every Kingdom and Countrey hath strugled to help themselves

ſelves by *unreaſonable Duties*, and *unnatural Prohibitions*, upon one another; the effects of both which are, to *impoveriſh* all the *Manufacturing People*, though for the preſent, it may ſeem to enrich the *Governing Part*, yet it is all to the deſtruction of the *European Trade*; and we may ſtruggle our hearts out to relieve our Poor, for ſo long as this *Indian Gangreen* is nouriſhed among us, nothing will Help, nothing will Do; becauſe the loſs of the Silk Manufactory in *England*, will certainly ſink the Exportation of the Woollen, in proportion, and render all Work-Houſes in Countries and Corporations Ineffectual, as does already appear.

(20.) Leſs matters, and even Trifles in reſpect of theſe, have Alarm'd our Fore-Fathers; yea, and have had ſome influence on our ſelves of late; I ſhall make at preſent, choice only of two inſtances, out of many, I mean the *Dying*, and the *Button-making Trade*. For the benefit of the *Dyers*, and improving that *Trade*, it was enacted, That no *Dyed Silk* ſhould be *Imported*; and about the latter end of the Reign of King *Charles* the Second, it was alſo by Law enacted, That no *Foreign-made Buttons* ſhould be imported into *England*, with which our *Dutch Friends* before had plentifully ſerved us. And doth the *Weavers* and *Weaving-Trade* deſerve no Conſideration, which is Twenty times the value to the Kingdom more than both, and Employs more than

a hundred for one? And even the *Button-makers* have had the good fortune this very Seſſions, to be Relieved and Supported by this *Truly Engliſh Parliament*; for in conſideration of their Numbers and Poverty, they have ſecur'd them in their Trade, and that much to the Advantage of the *Turkey Merchants*: And though their numbers at *Macklesfield* and *Sherbourn*, and the adjacent Countrey, are great, yet I am confident, I could name one Pariſh in *London*, wherein not many years ſince, before this ſad decay of Trade, *the Weavers, Throſters, and their dependents*, exceeded them all; How Numerous then would they be, if computed in all places? But the *Button-makers* may thank God, that they had not an *Eaſt-India Company* to cope with, and I am perſwaded, that could the *Weavers*, be ſecured againſt only the *Engliſh* conſumption of *Figur'd, Stich'd, and Strip'd Eaſt-India Silks and Stuffs*, they would be contented, and might be a Happy Proſperous People again, and both the *Turkey and Italian Merchants*, Twenty times more benefitted, than by the *Button Bill*; and the Bleſſing would go round, for the Woollen Manufacture would feel the good effects of it; and leſs than this, can never preſerve them from total Ruine, in a ſhort time.

(21) And to ſay the Truth, our *Weavers*, ſome years ſince, were but little beholding to ſome back Friends, who when they

they found they had too good a cauſe, and the *Prohibiting Bill* had paſs'd the *Houſe of Commons*, perſwaded ſome, to gain a total Prohibition of all *European* Foreign-wrought Silks; for not having cauſe good enough fairly to Try it out with them, they deviſed this way to hug them to Death, with that pretended kindneſs, and deſtroyed the *Bill*, by inſiſting on what is Unreaſonable: For if the *Engliſh VVeaver* cannot vie in *Frugal Living, and Cheap Working*, with thoſe Countreys, that purchaſe their *Raw Silks*, and *Neceſſaries of Living*, much at the ſame Rate themſelves do, they will then deſervedly ſuffer; but to oblige them to contend with a numerous multitude of *Salvages* that have their *Silk* to work upon for almoſt nothing, and want neither *Fire* nor *Cloathing*, while Two pence in Rice, will ſuſtain a Family of four or five for a week, is very hard meaſure, and unmerciful doings, unleſs ſuch methods are taken, as may reduce the value of Lands, and all its Productions, to ſuch low Rates here, that they may work on an equal foot: But how cheap ſoever the *Eaſt-India Company* may buy theſe Goods, *England*, and all its *Ladies*, ſhall and will pay dear enough for them, rather than go without them; ſo that unleſs they are by ſome means or other effectually Reſtrain'd, *England* muſt be *Undone* to gratify a *humour* of *vanity*, and *enrich* a few, who care not who, nor how many they Ruine,

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so they may but Grasp all into their own hands; for otherwise one would think that the Productions of the Growth and Soil of *India*, such as *Pepper*, *Salt-Peter*, *Rice*, *Cotton-wool*, and *Yarn*, and numbers more, together with what *Wrought Silks* they may export, might be sufficient Gain, to content Reasonable Men; and as for *Persian Taffaties*, and *Plain* Silks, the *Weavers* would not contend the matter.

(22) But to Prohibit the Wearing any thing, that may be Cheap Bought, which if the *East-India Company* do, the Gain is to *England*, though they sell never so dear to those who Wear and Consume it; which I take to be in the Body Politick, like overgorging with Meat and Drink in the Natural Body, which is weak and languid, and thrives not with it, unless in some great Wen, Excrescency, or other Deformity; and if this be all we are to regard, it may as well hold good in other instances; and then let us suppose, that when our *India-Ships* freight *Bullion* from *Holland* or *Spain*, they should also there take in a good quantity of *Spanish Wooll*, and so save the Charge of bringing it to *England*, and then be sure, not to forget to take along with them a few *Worcester-shire Cloth-weavers*, and *Cloth-workers*, to instruct; and all sorts of Work and Labour, being performed in *India* twelve times as Cheap as in *England*, and four Shillings worth of

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Spaniſh-wool, making a yard of Cloth worth Fifteen Shillings, which at this Rate, will ſtand them but in Five Shillings, then there will be Ten Shilling ſaved for their Navigation and Profits, and ſo *England*'s the Gainer; and the Silver they may ſend to *Bengal* and *Perſia*, for *Raw Silk*, to employ the *Mogul*'s Subjects in other parts to work up, (as they already do) and ſo return back both the Cargoes of *Silk* and *Cloth* together, and at once disband all, both our *Needleſs Clothiers, and Silk Weavers*; this will do the work effectually, and leave us nothing to do at home, which muſt certainly make us a Rich and Induſtrious People, or no People at all conſiderable in a very little time: For I am ſure the project is not more ridiculous, nor leſs pernicious in one reſpect, than the other. And where we are likely to find this *Market* they talk of, for our own Manufactures, is little leſs than a Miracle, and looks more like what the Vulgar call a *Vertuoſo-fancy* than any *poſſibility*. For can we be ſo beſotted, as to imagine, that the World ſhould be become ſo *fond* of us, who are ſo *Careleſs* of our ſelves; that in ſpight of our Teeths, they ſhould be ſtudiers of, and induſtriouſly provide for our Good, by becoming Cuſtomers for our Manufactures, which we our ſelves ſlight and contemn; or can it be thought reaſonable to believe, that when we have brought our own *Plantations*, the *Spaniards*, *and other*

Places,

Places, to the use of *East-India Silks*, *Cotten*, *Cloths* and *Stuffs* (which our own great Preference and Esteem, not only tends to, but effects) we shall still have the better Markets abroad in some *Newfound-Lands*, or *Countreys to be found out*; where we may vend our *Silks*, *Cloths*, *Bays*, *Serges*, *Perpetuana's*, *Norwich-Stuffs*, and the like Commodities; and it would be worth any Mans while, to get Information, what Market in this World, is not already fully stored and cloy'd with these Commodities, whether those prepar'd by the *East-India Traders*, must go to the Prejudice of other more *Excellent and Beneficial Merchants*; unless they know how to carry them to the World in the Moon.

(23.) And if our Common Prints, do not Prevaricate, *Flanders* and *Venice* have lately declared their sense of this Evil, by a *Prohibition of Indian Manufactures*; and though the *French King*, for many years past, hath driven away so many thousands of his *poor Subjects* to seek their Bread in other Countreys, of which *England* hath entertained the greatest part; and the most of those that were *Manufacturers*, were no other way capable of earning their Living, but by the *Weaving Trade*; yet he hath manifested his constant care, to support, and afford a good Maintenance to those that remain; as may appear, by his Edict of *October* 26. 1686. whereby he not

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only *Prohibits* the wearing of all sorts of *East-India Silks and Callico's*, but also, under a severe Mulct, *Prohibits* the Imitation of their own made *figured and flowred Silks by Printing*; and commands their *Prints* and *Tools* to be *Broke and Utterly Destroy'd*: And in the last War, when they took and sold many of our *East-India Ships*, they sold not the *Manufactured Goods*, but under this Caution and Obligation, That they should be again *Exported*: And by another Edict of —— 1694. For the Preservation of the *Button-makers Trade*, He *Prohibits* the wear, or use, of *Buttons*, any other ways made, than with the *Needle*; and by all ways and means, endeavours that *Bread*, the staff of Life, may be sold *Cheap*. Now if we, to the great numbers of our *own People*, must, contrary to our former Laws, entertain and admit *all Strangers* that come, and give them right to work in our Trades, is it not highly unreasonable to pour in upon us such vast quantities of *Indian Commodities*, as destroy the *Principal Manufactures*; in making of which, both the *English* and *French Weavers* must get their Bread, or Starve; whilst at the same time we Prohibit *Irish Cattle, Distil our Corn*, and Export it too, if Cheap.

(24.) I cannot think such like Proceedings, to be very consistent with good Reason and Policy, and must crave your Pardon, if I tell you, That I believe this *East-*

India Trade of Goods *there Manufactured*, for our own Consumption at home, is far more Prejudicial, not only to our own Silk *Manufactures*, but to *England* in general, than were those *wicked audacious Persons*, of whom so many were *Hanged* for *Cliping and Coyning*; for if they followed both Trades, and *Coyned* their *Clipings*, it was no loss to *England*, for what we wanted in *weight*, we had in *tale*; and could we have paid therewith our *Foreign Bills*, it would have been of greater advantage to *England*, than the *East-India-Trade*; but for those *Rogues* who *only clip'd*, they deserved a *double Hanging*, for they were one great Support of the *East-India-Trade*, their *Meltings* furnishing them with *Silver* for a long time; the want of which now puts them to their shifts, and makes them pay so dear for it.

(25.) Thus, Sir, I have laid before you what I apprehend to be the Causes of this desperate *Decay* of *Trade*, which will day by day more clearly appear, as our *Poverty* increaseth; and hence the Remedies are visible, if apply'd by a Powerful Hand. But because you are urgent for my further Opinion herein, I shall point at some, tho' very briefly, they having been hinted at all along. It is an old and true Observation, *That the knowledge of the Distemper is more than half the Cure*; our Home-Consumption of *East-India Wrought Silks*, is the Decay both of our *Clothing and Silk Manufactures*, *the*

the Weavers, Throsters, and all their *Dependants*; and *impoverisheth* all Places where those *Trades* decay. But after the due *Improvement* of our own *Productions* by *Manufactures*, as hath been already insisted on, A due Consideration of that truly Noble *Turkey Trade*, is the next thing that can and will give us considerable Relief. Let only such Encouragement be given, that those *Gentlemen* who spend their Youth in Travel, and to gain Experience in that Trade, and after venture Great Estates therein, when they return and settle here, and send others their *Factors* abroad, to do as they had done before them, may find a good Market, amongst other their Commodities, for their *Silk and Grogram Yarn*, (which are the Principal Returns) and then the *Clothier* and the *Tin-Merchant* shall never want a sure *Sale*, and good *Price* for their Commodities; and I dare appeal to those Gentlemen, whether any thing else can produce this good effect; and be bold to say, That the Arts and Policy the *French King* is now making use of, to beat our *Merchants* out of that *Trade*, will do *England* more mischief (if not prevented) than all our tedious War: For it is this inforceth many of them, for the employment of their Estates, to strike in with the *East-India-Trade* against their Judgments and Inclinations: For seeing we are resolved to ruine our selves, they will come in for part of the

ſcramble. For 'tis plainly thus: The *Mercer* can ſell nothing of Engliſh *Silk*, but with great loſs to *Himſelf* or the *Weaver*, and for this reaſon the *Weavers* are forced to deſiſt their *Trade*, the Silk lying on the Silkmens or Throſters hands, by which means the *Merchant* wants *Sale*, and ſhips away no more *Cloth* or *Tin*, and gives order to his *Factor* in *Turkey*, to forbear buying any more *Silk*, or *Grograin*, or *Cotton-Yarn*, whilſt the *French* buy up all, and give great encouragement and life to their *Manufacturers* at home; for want of which, our Trade is ſo deſtroy'd, that our Poor need not ſcoff at *Wooden Shooes*, for they muſt go *Barefoot*. I could give you ſeveral Links of the like Chain of Deſtruction to our *Spaniſh*, *German*, *Italian*, and other *Trades*, whereby the other parts of our *Woollen Manufactures* (as *Bays*, *Serges*, *Perpetuana's*, and all ſorts of *Norwich* and other Stuffs) ſuffer the ſame Detriment from one and the ſame Cauſe. But ſure I am, the Caſe is extreamly alter'd with the Weavers, ſince *Cannon-ſtreet* both ſides the way was nothing but *Weaver's Workſhops*. But by what is before ſaid, it appears that making the *Turkey-Trade* proſperous, wou'd in a great meaſure cure the Evil we groan under, and prevent their ſending their *Silk* and *Grograin Yarn* to *Holland*, which they are now neceſſitated to do for want of another Market. And I could

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be content the fore-mentioned Author (tho' a profeſt *Eaſt-India Advocate)* might judge between us, for what valuable cauſes theſe beneficial *Merchants*, as well as the *Weavers*, muſt be thus cramp'd and cripled in their Trade; Which he aſſerts, p. 14. *That* Europe *had been richer by a full Third Part than they are, if that Trade had never been Diſcovered or Undertaken; and that it bears hard only on thoſe Countreys that conſume thoſe Commodities.* But for thoſe who will conſume them, to the deſtruction of their own valuable Productions and Manufactures, and the carrying away all their Wealth in the end, I think they want a *Lord have mercy upon them.*

(26.) For my own part, I do not think but that the Departure of thoſe Multitudes of *Strangers* would be a great detriment to the *Turkey Trade*, and that their abiding here might be of great advantage not only to that, but to *England* in general, if matters be ſo ordered that all may have Work: For multitudes of Induſtrious People are the beſt and ſureſt Riches and Strength of a Kingdom, if wiſely employ'd. For that in the Manufacturing of *Grograin Yarn* into Hair Shags, Tammies, *&c.* I verily believe there is now about *London* upwards of twenty *French* for one *Engliſh*, either of Maſters or Workmen therein. I mention this, becauſe it is the great Opinion, of the multitudes of *Engliſh* who

want Bread, That prosecuting and driving away *Foreigners*, would give Relief to their Want; and so far hath it prevailed, that by incessant importunity they oblig'd the *Company*, for the better considering of the matter, to call a *full Court*; and further by their pressing Intreaties had engaged a number of those that were or had been their *Work-masters*, to represent their case to the *Court*; and in order to their Relief, to request, 1. That the *Company* would put their *By-Laws* in execution. 2. That they would give them leave to prosecute, according to the *Laws* of *England*, those that had not served *seven years* an Apprentiship to the *Trade*. 3. That they would admit no more *Foreigners* to work on the *Trade*. To all which the *Company* gave all those that appeared full satisfaction, That they lay under an Obligation neither to do, nor to abet, or suffer any thing to be done contrary to the Agreement made with their Church; but that they would endeavour so to represent their case, that there might be Relief both for them and the Strangers also; but for acting thus, the *Company* is sharply upbraided, and warmly reflected upon by the *poor* mistaken Multitude: For tho' this hath been some small cause of their Poverty by accident, as hath been before mentioned; yet cannot cure the Evil they labour under; But if I might, I would *Advise* or *Perswade* (for it is unreasonable in this case to talk of

Forcing

Forcing or *Prohibiting)* People of all Qualities, Age or Sex, to the wearing of Garments and Ornaments of *Silk* or *Grograin Yarn* of *Engliſh* make; for this is the return of *Engliſh Woollen Cloth*, and nothing could conduce more to the advantage of the *Engliſh Merchants* Trading to *Turkey*, *Spain*, *Italy*, and other *European* Parts, and is double advantage to *England*. The truth of which may be further demonſtrated in one ſmall but freſh inſtance, by which I believe more than one Merchant have been no ſmall Sufferers, I mean the great and ſudden diſuſe of *Mohair Fringes*, together with the decay of the *Weaving and Button-making Trade*, by which means ſome thouſand pounds worth of *Mohair Yarn*, which otherwiſe might have been ſold for ready Money at a Price, ſo ſunk and fell in its value, that it is ſince ſold for one third of what might then have been had for it; and I believe, that reckoning the decay by the Worm eating into it, and the loſs of Intereſt, even that third part was likewiſe conſumed (which had otherwiſe been laid out again in Cloth and Tin, and ſent to *Turkey*) as the Proprietor can tell by woful Experience: And I am ſure that our Womens great eſteem for *Thread Fringes* was a great occaſion thereof, and a great kindneſs to the *Dutch*. And therefore I intreat and beg of you, that you will uſe your utmoſt Intereſt and Rhetorick to perſwade and prevail, that *Camblet*

Cloaks, *Coats* and *Gowns*, *Silk Mohair*, and *Mohair Fringes and Buttons, and Manufactures here made of Silk and Grograin Yarn*, may be the Wearing preferr'd and encourag'd: For this is the true Intereſt of the *Turkey Trade*, and in it the great Intereſt of *England*.

(27.) From what hath been ſaid, I think it may plainly appear, That no leſs than a *Prohibition* or ſtop of the *Home-Conſumption* of all ſorts of *Eaſt-India Silks and Stuffs*, except *plain Perſian Taffaties*, and ſuch-like of plain make, can preſerve the *Silk-Weavers* and *Throſters* of *England*, and thoſe great Numbers that depend upon them, the good conſequence whereof hath been already fully demonſtrated: For if this be not granted, thoſe Trades muſt utterly decay and ſink; for as matters now ſtand, by reaſon of the fore-mentioned Dangers, few Men that had an Eſtate would for the three years laſt paſt adventure it, the loſs being ſo certain; and as for ſuch as have and do trade upon Credit, they are forc'd to ſuch miſerable ſhifts as at laſt ends in extream Poverty: And the cauſe it ſelf, (I mean *England*'s Intereſt) is almoſt totally yielded up; deep deſpair, together with diſability, having ſo diſ-ſpirited and ſunk the Minds of the *Engliſh Silk Manufacturers*, that there is not *Silk* provided to ſupply the *Mercers Shops*, tho' they ſhould be willing to buy; all ſtand at gaze, and are only concern'd to ſee what the *Parliament* would do with them;

them; they are falling into extream deſpair, in vain contriving to find out New Employments. And therefore I beg of, and beſeech you, good Sir, for GOD's ſake, for your Countrey's ſake, and for the ſake of thoſe *Numberleſs Multitudes of Poor* before menrioned, that you would employ all your Intereſt to gain ſome *effectual Prohibition* of wearing any *flower'd, ſpotted, or ſtrip'd Silk of Indian Make*; and then I doubt not but ſuch a good Act, with example, would not only gain the preferrence at home, but alſo afford an opportunity, not only to our own *Plantations*, but alſo to many *Neighbouring Countreys*, to follow the Example; our *Factors* in moſt places commonly ſending their orders for ſuch Commodities as our ſelves moſt prefer and uſe. Nor let any think that ſuch a *Prohibition* would be impracticable, if reſolved upon; for the firm Reſolution of an *Engliſh Parliament* is of force ſufficient to prevail in any good Cauſe which they ſhall heartily eſpouſe; as may be ſeen in the Buſineſs of *Burying* in *Woollen*, and the *French Al-a-modes and Luſtrings*, which I believe to be totally ſuppreſt: And I am confident the *Eaſt-India Company* themſelves would not attempt the breach of ſuch a Law, if it were once obtain'd; and the *Interlopers*, or private Traders, might be eaſily prevented, and ſuch Rules propos'd, as might deter any other parts from impoſing them upon us, under the notion of their

own

own Manufactures: But if the greateſt Evils muſt meet with no good Endeavours of Redreſs, we muſt be of all People moſt miſerable. Therefore, *Dear Sir*, endeavour that ſomething may be done by the *Parliament*, before they Riſe, that may at leaſt give *hopes*, that their *Cauſe* ſhall in due time, be throughly *Conſider'd*: Such a *Promiſe* or *Vote* wou'd give New *Life* to as many as can ſtruggle out another ſeaſon, and *hopes* of good in time to the reſt; but the contrary, *Utter Deſpair*. For I think I may truly ſay, what looks like a Prophecy in one of their *Papers* about three years ſince, when contending for this *Bill* in *Parliament*, *That if it were granted, it wou'd in a ſmall time ſo invigorate the Minds of all Fabricators both in Silk, Wooll, and Grograin Yarn, that they would contend with all other Difficulties, tho' Money ſhou'd continue as ſcarce as at preſent; and that the contrary wou'd diſcourage thoſe of greateſt Ability, to that degree, that the Out-Pariſhes of* London, *the Tower Hamblets, and the Wool-Manufacturing Towns of* England, *would not be able to ſupport their Poor.* And whether the Truth of this laſt part hath not been verified to purpoſe, I dare appeal to the *Miniſters, Church-Wardens, and Overſeers of the Poor:* And I am ſure all the Inhabitants of thoſe Places muſt and will give a ſad Teſtimony both to the Truth of this, and what will be the only Remedy we can hope for, and that is, the

Prohi-

Prohibition requeſted: For had that Act then paſſed, it had ſaved the Lives of many who have ſince periſhed, and preſerved the Trade both of Weavers and Throſters above double the Number they now are.

(28.) And for your further Conviction, it may not be unſeaſonable here to add to the two fore-mentioned Acts concerning *Button-making* and *Dying*, a third inſtance of our former care, and that is, The Act to prevent *Silk* coming *ready Thrown* from *India*. For can any reaſonable Man living believe, that ſuch care ſhould be taken of *Dyers* and *Throſters*, and at the ſame time the *VVeavers* be wholly neglected, unleſs it be that the *Dyers* and *Throſters*, had and did make *friends* in *Parliament*, but the *VVeavers* had *none* to inform in their behalf? Beſides, the Proviſion it ſelf, is ineffectual and ridiculous, if it be not reaſonable to grant this *Prohibition*; for no *Silk* is *weaved*, but what is firſt *thrown* and *dyed*; and therefore ſo far as *Silk-throwing* and *Dying*, hath relation to *VVeaving*, thoſe *Acts* are inſignificant, and now both thoſe *Trades* are very ſenſible, that not only the *VVell-being*, but almoſt their *Being*, depends upon the Preſervation of the *Silk-VVeaving*, and that they ſhould have a very *poor* Trade, to be only employed in *Throwing* and *Dying* for *Stitching* and *Sowing* Silks, and ſome ſmall pittance for the *Stockin-Frames*, and the *Button* and *Fringe-makers*; and it is worth

worth observation, that the *East-India Companies* fingers itch'd, to gain this point also; for they did lately bring over a considerable quantity of *Indian Thrown* and *Dyed Silk*, which the *Throsters* and *Dyers* coming to the knowledge of, they bestir'd themselves, and made a *Seizure* thereof, but the business was patcht up I know not how; for the *East-India Company* durst not contend it, but are, or seem contented for the future, not to bring it over so *Thrown or Dyed*, but are resolv'd to do us a *further kindness*, and save us the labour of the *Weaving*, the *prevention* of which, is the only *remedy* we have to preserve our selves and *England* from *extream Poverty*.

(29.) *Sir*, In behalf of those great Multitudes, concern'd in this Controversie; I earnestly Intreat you, to use your Interest with those Gentlemen, who now have the management of the *India Trade* in their Power, that they wou'd be so kind to their *poor Countrey-men*, as to grant willingly what is here desired; for it is not Reasonable to think, that the Offer made by them to those *Weavers*, who treated with them, will either be *accepted* by them, or *allowed* by the *Parliament*; which was to this effect, That if they wou'd so assist them, as to gain an Abatement of *Customs*, upon *Raw Silk*, *Cotton Yarn*, *and other unmanufactured Commodities* for Trade, they would be contented to load all *Wrought Silks* with *Duties*, to such a degree,

degree, as might make it more profitable to bring the ſaid *Raw Silks* and other materials to be Manufactured here, than to bring the *Wrought Silks*, *Stuffs*, or other ready Manufactured Goods. But I ſhall offer you ſome Reaſons, why I think this Project will not take, or if it do, would be of no good uſe or Benefit.

1. Becauſe this would give a vaſt Advantage to the *Indian Trade*, beyond that of the *Turkey and Italian Merchant*, and ſo would more and more obſtruct and deſtroy thoſe more Beneficial and Neceſſary Trades.

2. So Great a Duty, would be a ſtrong temptation to all Private *Traders and Sailers*, to venture their all in this *Commodity*, which is ſo *Portable*.

3. It wou'd be no leſs temptation to other *Nations*, eſpecially our *French and Dutch Friends*, to impoſe them upon us.

4. The forementioned reaſon of our Ladies humours, and unaccountable Fondneſs of this Commodity, plainly ſhews, That nothing but an abſolute *Prohibition* of wearing thereof, can effectually prevent the Miſchief; for with them it is all in all, if it be *Eaſt-India*; be it never ſo *dear*, never ſo *ugly*, it then Pleaſeth, and no *Price* is too great for it.

(30.) Now this being plain matter of Fact, and evident Truth, What a dangerous condition are all our *Engliſh Manufactories*

ries in, which are not already *secured by Law*, against this *devouring Trade*? As for the *Throwsters* and *Dyers* before mentioned, they are little Significant, if the *Weavers* be not Preserved and Secured; but if, as the *East-India Company* pretends, they have a dear Bargain, and will have what they have bought, which they say, is no less, than a freedom to bring not only Materials of Trade, and Productions of that Countreys Growth, but also whatsoever Manufactures they can make advantage by; then in few years they may, and doubtless will, Undo all before them, if not in the former instance of carrying *Spanish Wooll* to be there Manufactured, yet in projecting and making such *Cloth* of *Cotton Wooll*, for Mens Garments, as shall as much outvye (or at least be thought so) our *English Cloth*, as *Indian Silks* are thought by our vain Ladies to surpass *English*. The *Fanmakers* they have already beat out of the Pit, little being left them to do, unless to mend and repair the breaches that happen to *Indian Fans* in their passage: I cannot say they have as yet carryed over any *Stockin-Frames*, but that they will not do it, is improbable; and then what will become of our ingenious *Frame-knitting*, and those thousands of poor People, that in several Counties of *England*, earn their bread by Knitting with Needles, when we shall have *East-India Silk Stockins*, far Cheaper, than here

here they can be made of *Wooll?* But not to tire your Patience, Thus may the *Upholsterers*, the *Hatters*, the *Taylors*, the *Imbroiderers*, the *Glovers*, and others, too many to be named, be *swallowed up* by this *All-Devouring East-India Trade*, if they have this unlimited Power; for had they not the Materials themselves Cheaper there, than here, (which yet they have by much) the very difference of charge in Workman-ship may destroy all before it, the Necessaries of Life, affording the *Indians* a better livelihood for a *penny*, than the *English-man* for a *shilling*; and then by the Greatness of their Stock, bringing over whatever they deal with, in such Vast Quantities, and by their Interest in Persons of the best Rank and Quality, they can (by these and other like means) give the Preference to what they please; so that unless you can believe them to be *strange Self-denying Men*, they may at their pleasure, Ruin, in a manner, all the *Trades and Manufactories of England.* I have lately received Information of one instance of this Nature, which mightily concerns us, which is, That several *Molds and Tools*, for making *Pewter*, have been lately made, and carryed down in *Coaches*, near to *Thames-street*, supposed to be for the use of the *Spaniards and Portuguese*; they having obtain'd our *Tin*, on Terms likely to destroy our Manufacturing of *Pewter*: but I doubt and fear, That they are rather prepared

pared for the *East-Indies*, where there is plenty of *Tin*; and then we may bid farewell to the *Pewterers Trade*; and if it should be so, our *Cornwal Tin-Mines*, will also receive a Mortal Wound: This matter is worth a full discovery, which by all the enquiry I have made, I could not yet attain to, but for so much as I relate, I am well assured, though all the Mold-Makers deny the thing, which makes me the more suspitious, that they are going the same way, which the *English Weavers, Patterns, and Pattern-drawers*, formerly went; but whereso'ever they go, I fear it will be much to the Prejudice of *England*.

(31.) But I am not willing to be mistaken as an enemy, either to the *East-India Trade* or *Company*; I heartily wish a friendly Reconciliation of all Parties, and them a Trade as Large and Prosperous as their own hearts can desire, could it be consistent with the Publick Welfare of *England*, which if the loss of the Silk Manufacture would advance, I should gladly see it Sacrific'd to so good an end: But I am sure, and Truth it self compells me to declare, That the greater the *East-India Trade* is in general, the greater Prejudice it is to *Europe*. But since the errour hath spread like a general Infection, and every Kingdom and Nation, that can, striveth to outvie each other in this bewitching Trade; may the *English* exceed all, and be Prosperous;

and

and it is, and always was my opinion, That an Incorporation, or Company, Wisely and Honestly Manag'd, is the best way to carry it on, and prevent being Insulted or Imposed upon by the *Great Mogul*, or his, or any others *Subjects*; but then here lies the great danger, That such a *Body* can *Command*, or *Requeſt*, or *Oblige*, and such a *Purſe* can *Fee* and *Bribe* at that extravagant Rate, as to make *Friends* amongſt *Inconſiderate or Covetous Men*, to the carrying on any *Cauſe* or *Intereſt* they purſue, tho' never ſo *deſtructive* to the *Publick Good*, unleſs the *Legiſlative Power* pleaſe to *interpoſe* and *prevent* it: Nor have I the leaſt intent to Reflect, either on particular Perſons, or Miſcarriages; I have as much Reſpect for, and great an eſteem of moſt of thoſe Perſons concern'd in that Trade, as any man whatſoever; and I do verily believe, that many of them, would never contend in this matter, had they throughly and impartially weigh'd and conſider'd the Evil Conſequences thereof; but the greater part, is either actually govern'd by the leſs, or elſe ſubtilly manag'd and govern'd by a few, whoſe Intereſt, Power or Parts, overtops the reſt; and if theſe judge, that having paid their Money, they may make the beſt Advantage of their Bargain, and purſue their Deſigns, whoever Suffers, the reſt follow their Leaders, without further Conſideration: But with their good leave,

I think Eight *per Cent*, and as great Security as can be given, or desired, to be better than any Trade, and I hope will not entitle any Persons to a further Right of Undoing others, and the Ruin of our Home Manufactures. But our *Wise Legislators*, must and will be *Judges* in this Case, and to them I refer it. And 'tis worth their most serious Consideration, That when we have brought the *Spaniards* to be as much in love (as our selves) and to use these *Indian Silks* and *Stuffs*, for whose Clymate they are more fitting than for ours, they may not come under the Government of a Prince, who will quickly teach them Navigation enough, to exchange their Western Cargo's of *Bullion*, for these *Eastern Silks and Stuffs*, without our help, which will likewise destroy, at least, a Moyety of our *Woollen Manufacture*.

(32.) And with submission, I do think this further matter may not be unworthy the Consideration of that *August Assembly*, That whilst the *French* send their *Ships* to *India*, both for *Materials*, *Productions*, and *Manufactures* of that Country, they carefully Support and Increase their *Home Manufacturers*, and now buy up Silk (beyond what they ever did) and *Gregrain Yarn* (which formerly they did not) in *Turkey*, whilst our *Turky*-Merchants *Factors* only look on; because the *Manufacturers* of *England*, being Ruin'd by this *Indian Torrent*, nothing

nothing will sell here at the Price they must give there: And thus the *French* secures his *Interest* at *Home*, and likewise comes in for a *large share* in the *desolation* of those *Manufacturing Countreys*, that undo themselves, or will be thus Destroy'd: And who can blame the *Turky Merchants* for desisting their Trade? For our *Weavers* and *Silk Throwsters* cannot, as matters are; and for that Reason have not provided to supply the wants of the *Mercers*, the two last years, which if they had or did, yet the *Turkey Merchants* have not *Silk* to carry on the *Trade*, and for this reason must desist to buy *Cloth*; and thus the destruction of *England's Trade* approacheth; and that the fall of Lands in value will soon follow, is certain; the late advance of which, proceeds more from the Judgment of GOD upon these parts of the World, than any other cause: For now both *Corn*, and *Wool*, and all other like Necessaries, advance not in their value by the *goodness of Trade*, but by the *ill Crops, and scarcity thereof*, (chiefly in other Countreys) which must be again repayed by the advancing the Price of the *Productions of other Countreys*, (as we do in *Claret*, as well as *Silk*) and if we cannot do the one as well as the other, we lose our *Trade*: And matters may be as well managed for the support of our Manufactures, as they are by others for their own in other parts: And we may then give as good a

Price in *Turkey* to the *French*, and also prevent the *Dutch* from buying up here those Necessaries of *Silk*, *Grograin*, and *Cotton-Yarn*, for which our *Turkey Merchants* now can find little other good Markets.

(23.) Having confined my self chiefly to the particular Interest of the Weaving *Manufactory*, I have avoided those Arguments, that are or may be brought to prove this prejudicial to the *East-India Trade* is, to the *General Trade of the Kingdom*, as well in the *Materials* for *Trade*, as in the *Manufactured Silks*, which I truly think it is: But those Arguments have been already handled by much better Pens in several Printed Tracts, and especially in a late Piece by that indefatigable Champion for *Norwich*, Mr. *Loam*, in his late *Answer to the most considerable Objections* that are brought in defence of the said Trade; as also in his *Case of the English Manufacturer in Trading in Wool*, presented to the Parliament; and for this Reason both the *Turkey*, and other *Merchants*, may judge this my discourse to be of little concern to them, *Raw Silk*, *Cotton Yarn and Wool*, predicting their Trade as well as if *ready Manufactured*, but to me the Remedy of that seems impracticable, unless all *Europe* would agree to damn the East India Trade it self, as to that particular; and we had better be subject to one evil, than to that and a greater; such as I take the *Depeopling* our *Country*, by *Destroying* our *Manufactures*

factures to be: And cou'd these *Materials*, be the return of our own *Productions* (as it is by the *Turky Merchants*) and not of *Bullion* (as it is by the *East-India Merchant*) I think it might be much at one, to the *English Interest*, whether they had them from *India* or *Turkey*; yea, and as it is, we might the better bear it, if these Commodities were again *exported* with such advantage as they sometimes pretend, but without proof: For when they have been pressed with that dangerous Argument of sending away our Money to the *Indies*, they insisted on this in their Defence, That nine parts in ten of their *Wrought Silks imported*, were again *exported*; but when in the last Controversie they defeated that *good Bill* in the *House of Lords*, then finding the Nation was bewitch'd to the use of their *Silks*, and to a belief of the Necessity and Benefit of their Trade, but chiefly depending on the Friends they had made, then they changed thir Note, and loudly proclaimed that the *East-India Trade* would be nothing worth, if they might not be allowed to use them in *England*; for that (as they then truly said) *Nine parts in Ten, were consumed here.* I hope all these Reasons will prevail for the Prohibition desired.

(34.) As to what is commonly objected of the *Dutch* Practice herein, and Profit thereby, it hath formerly been truly and wisely observed, That *one Parish in* London *consumes*

ſumes more East-India Silks than all the Seven Provinces of Holland: And ſuch an Imitation of their Practice, had ſaved me this labour; as to the largeneſs of their *East-India Trade*, I know they have had a great ſhare in the Ruine of *Europe*, for the enriching themſelves; but in this particular of *wrought Silks*, we have *greatly out-done them*. For 'tis obſerved, that one *Engliſh Ship* hath at once brought more of that pernicious Commodity, than all the *Dutch Fleets* the year round, and that for conſiderable time paſt. But if we wou'd do well, we muſt with the promoting our *Navigation* likewiſe conſider that we have a large Tract of *fruitful Land, rich Mines, profitable Sheep and Cattel*, and theſe we muſt likewiſe improve to the *inriching* our Countrey with People, and ſo as they may live by their Labour.

(35.) Sir, I fear I have quite tir'd your Patience, upon which I will not treſpaſs much longer, and therefore now drawing to a Concluſion, I ſolemnly proteſt, that to the beſt of my Judgment and Knowledge, I have herein declared or writ nothing for any other motive, end or reaſon, than the *Good* of my *Country in general*, and which I am ſure the Support and Welfare of thoſe poor Manufacturers, for whom I am a compaſſionate tho' mean Advocate, tends to: And I cannot omit to tell you, That ſome laugh at, and ridicule the Notion of Peoples *periſhing* and *ſtarving*, which I before mentioned:

tioned: And indeed, some years since, who would have imagined that such a thing could be, in such a plentiful Countrey as *England*? But alas! I am now daily an *eye* or *ear Witness* of the contrary. And if that Person who receives a *bruise* or *stab*, and for some time after *lives* and *lingers*, and *at last dies* thereof, is as certainly *murthered*, as he that is *stabb'd to the Heart*, or *his Brains beat out*; I am certain that for some years past, many have *perished* for want of necessary *Food*, *Rayment*, *Lodging* and *Fire*, according to the absolute necessity of our Climate, and so *perishing and dying by degrees*, I cannot but judge them as truly *starved*, as if they had been kept from *Food* and *Rayment altogether*; only perhaps they may be said to perish more *miserably*, because more *slowly*.

(36.) If I am herein guilty of any Error, 'tis of my *Judgment*, not my *Will*; and I shall readily submit to any Conviction I shall be made sensible of; and I do expect to be sharply attack'd by such as my Education renders me uncapable to contend with: But I have so great Satisfaction in the Goodness, Justice and Reasonableness of this Cause, that I fear nothing; and doubt not but the Righteousness thereof will raise me up Seconds that will better maintain the Reasonableness of what is here desir'd, for that *vast* and *Necessary Body* of *English Silk-Weavers*, *Throsters*, *and their Dependents*, viz. As firm a *Probibition* against the *Home-ex-*

pence

pence of *figur'd*, *flower'd*, *Stitch'd*, and *Strip'd Silks*, as *Wit* can invent, or *Law* make; and then to expend their *plain* among us, is more, or at least as much, as they ought to desire, if they value the *Publick Good* more than their *Private Interest*. And by this means would Employment be provided for *Disbanded Souldiers*, of whom great numbers belong to the *Weaving Trade*, and its *Dependants*.

(37.) And for Conclusion and Confirmation of all I have said, I refer you to that great Master of *Trade* and *Merchandize*, Sir *Josiah Child*, who by his late little acting in the *East-India-Company*, seems to adhere to this his former Principle, (however it is said his Practice sometime greatly contradicted it) and with which the *Weavers* concluded their former Paper to the *Lords*, when last defeated: And thus saith he, *Whatsoever advances the value of Land in Purchase, improves the Rent of Farms, increaseth the Bulk of Foreign Trade, multiplies Domestick Artificers, inclineth the Nation to Thriftiness, employs the Poor, or increaseth the Stock of the People, must be procuring Causes of Riches: But a Foreign Expence, especially of Foreign Manufactures, is the worst Expence a Nation can be inclinable to, and ought to be prevented*, &c.

In fine, Sir, 'Tis believ'd the Liberty given the Press was, That you might constantly receive full and free Information in all things relating to Publick Affairs, and the Good of the Kingdom; and that, to the best of my *Knowledge* and *Judgment*, I have given in this Case; and I bless GOD I have not writ this for Bread, or any other Interest, but as before said: And I thought that the making it more Publick than for your single Satisfaction, may not be Unacceptable or Useless. And whatsoever your Wisdom determies herein, or whatever my own Sentiments, or Belief, is thereof, I shall Acquiesce with all Due Submission, for I am, Sir, *Yours to Command*, A. N.